

THE
PHYTOLOGIST:
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BOTANICAL MISCELLANY.

CONDUCTED BY
GEORGE LUXFORD, A.L.S., F.B.S.E.

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"The slightest piece of information which may tend to the advancement of the science [of Botany], we should thankfully receive. However trifling in itself, yet combined with other facts it may become important. Whatever relates to the determination of species, even in the lowest and seemingly least important of Nature's works, ought never to be neglected. He who determines with certainty a single species of moss, adds so far to the general stock of human knowledge." — SIR J. E. SMITH.

PREFACE.

THE PHYTOLOGIST owes its existence to the desire of recording and preserving FACTS, OBSERVATIONS and OPINIONS relating to Botany in general, but more especially to British Botany. Prior to its commencement *these* had no appropriate receptacle. There was no periodical to which they would be acceptable. For works of a general character, they were esteemed too dull: for those of high scientific pretensions they were supposed too trifling. By field-botanists alone were they considered worth preserving: to such the utility, the value of an unpretending monthly journal was most manifest; and these field-botanists — these observers — these labourers in the delightful fields of botanical enquiry, have freely availed themselves of its pages: they have done all that was anticipated, and 'The Phytologist' has become the medium of their communications with each other and with the botanical public.

It has been a source of great pleasure to me to observe, from time to time, among such contributors, the honoured names of Forster, Woods, Borrer, Wilson, Boott, Taylor, Greville and Ralfs, — names familiar as household words to the ear of every botanist, — names that constantly occur in works treating of British plants. Neither must I omit to enumerate others, perhaps of a younger school, but already honorably known; — as Mr. Spruce, the talented muscologist, Mr. Babington, Mr. Leighton, Dr. Balfour, Mr. Watson, Mr. Irvine, and Mr. Luxford, — all highly esteemed for their labours in the cause of British Botany, have lent their aid to 'The Phytologist.' To the last-named gentleman I am indebted, not only for those papers which bear his name, but also for numerous anonymous articles, and the

editorial management of the entire volume. And here I will take occasion to remark, that although 'The Phytologist' is published at my cost, and under my immediate control; and although I am in every respect responsible for anonymous articles; yet I have no claim whatever to the merit of such articles, since they have generally emanated from the pen of Mr. Luxford, whose name now stands in the title-page as the avowed editor.

It only remains for me to offer my best thanks to every subscriber and contributor, to all who promoted the welfare of my undertaking; but more especially to Mr. Luxford for his editorial labours, and to Mr. Dennes, Secretary to the Botanical Society of London, for the unremitting kindness and regularity with which he has furnished such able Reports of its proceedings.

EDWARD NEWMAN.

9, Devonshire St., Bishopsgate,
November 20, 1844.

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